

REMARKS

[0002] Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following remarks and reconsideration of the subject application. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments herein. The remarks and amendments should be entered under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 as they place the application in better form for appeal, or for resolution on the merits.

[0003] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. Claims 5, 6, 8, 19, 20 and 24-41 are presently pending. Claims amended herein are 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 34, and 36. Claims withdrawn or cancelled herein are 1-4, 7, 9-18, and 21-23.

Formal Request for an Interview

[0004] If the Examiner's reply to this communication is anything other than allowance of all pending claims, then I formally request an interview with the Examiner. I encourage the Examiner to call me—the undersigned representative for the Applicant—so that we can talk about this matter so as to resolve any outstanding issues quickly and efficiently over the phone.

[0005] Please contact me or my assistant to schedule a date and time for a telephone interview that is most convenient for both of us. While email works great for us, I welcome your call to either of us as well. Our contact information may be found on the last page of this response.

Claim Amendments

[0006] Without conceding the propriety of the rejections herein and in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends claims 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36 herein.

[0007] Claim 25 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, a method for providing a centralized mechanism for collecting and handling event data, “wherein the plurality of event providers comprising the first and second event provider and the plurality of event consumers comprising the first and second event consumer are represented by an extensible common information model that encapsulates all the components and applications in the network...” Support for the amendment can be found throughout the Application including, for example, wherein “WMI technology enables systems, applications, networks, and other managed components to be represented using the Common Information Model (CIM) designed by the Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF). CIM is an extensible data model for representing objects that exist in typical management environments. CIM is able to model anything in the managed environment, regardless of the location of the data source.” (Specification at p.5, lines 10-15).

[0008] Claim 25 is further amended to recite, *inter alia*, “wherein the event data is transmitted from the plurality of event providers to the plurality of event consumers via a common interface that supports a common event data format, the common event data format being configured to encapsulate all event data from the plurality of different event providers including the first and second event providers and be supported by the plurality of different event consumers including the first and second event consumers.” Support for the amendment can be found throughout the Application including, for example, wherein “The systems and methods described herein provide for the centralized handling of event

data generated by various event sources in an enterprise. The use of a common data format, a centralized event data storage device, and a common interface to obtain event data improves access to the event data and reduces administrative tasks associated with the handling of event data generated throughout the enterprise. The same event data format is used regardless of the source of the event data (also referred to as an event provider) or the users of the event data (also referred to as an event consumer). As the systems, applications, and topology of the enterprise changes, the event data format remains unchanged.” (Specification at p.4, lines 14-22).

[0009] Accordingly, no new matter will be introduced by the amendment. Entry to the file is respectfully requested.

Substantive Matters

Claim Rejections under §§ 102 and/or 103

[0010] Claims 5, 6, 8, 19, 20, and 24-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or § 103 for being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0019945 to Houston et al. (“Houston”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,889,953 to Thebaut et al. (“Thebaut”). In light of the amendments presented herein, Applicant submits that these rejections are moot. Accordingly, Applicant asks the Examiner to withdraw these rejections.

[0011] Independent claim 25, as amended, recites as follows (Emphasis added):

25. A method for providing a centralized mechanism for collecting and handling event data, comprising:

receiving all event data generated by a plurality of event providers comprising at least a first and a second event provider in a network, the first and second event providers being different from each other, the plurality of event providers comprising components and applications of different types in the network;

determining, in accordance with one or more event handling policies, which of a plurality of event consumers handle the received event data, the plurality of event consumers comprising at least a first and a second event consumer, the first and second event consumers being different from each other, the plurality of event consumers comprising components and applications of different types in the network; and

sending the event data to the plurality of event consumers comprising the first and second event consumers;

wherein the plurality of event providers comprising the first and second event provider and the plurality of event consumers comprising the first and second event consumer are *represented by an extensible common information model that encapsulates all the components and applications in the network*; and

wherein the *event data is transmitted in a common event data format* from the plurality of event providers to the plurality of event consumers *via a common interface that supports the common event data format, the common event data format being configured to encapsulate all event data from the plurality of different event providers including the first and second event providers and be supported by the plurality of different event consumers including the first and second event consumers.*

[0012] Applicant respectfully submits that neither of the cited references teaches at least the emphasized features recited in claim 25.

[0013] Houston is directed to a computer-implemented system for managing security event data collected from a computing network. According to Houston, the event managing software collects security event data from security devices located in the monitored computing network and can process the security event data. “In processing the security event data, the event manager module can format the data and create manageable summaries of the data.” (Houston, Abstract).

[0014] However, Houston does not teach the feature (“the event data is transmitted in a common event data format...via a common interface that supports a common event data format...” Instead, it’s specifically mentioned in Houston that “[t]he present invention allows large amounts of data in varying formats to be collected, stored, filtered,

and analyzed according to selected criteria. A user can choose to filter the security event data so that only desired information is analyzed and rendered for monitoring...”

(Houston, paragraph [0033]). Accordingly, by collecting “large amount of data in varying formats,” Applicant reasonably assumes the event data in Houston are not transmitted in “a common event data format.” Furthermore, a “common interface that supports the common event data format” is missing in Houston.

[0015] Thebaut does not remedy the deficiency either. As submitted in the previous response to the Office Action dated February 6, 2007, according to Thebaut, “[t]he inputs to the driver are a trigger 13, and domain structure 112, and a set of configuration records 114 attached to elements in the domain space. The output of the driver is an action space 117 (ultimately sent to network 118 or to the network management system 31 in FIG 3) which may comprise one or more of a configuration load; a notice of conflicting configurations; a notice of “no action required”; and a report of the state of overall network configuration.” (Thebaut, col. 6, lines 51-61). Apparently, the input and output of Thebaut use different format in triggering an event and conveying the policy from Policy driver 116. Therefore, Thebaut does not teach using a common event data format to transmit event data, nor does Thebaut provide a common interface to support the event data format.

[0016] Furthermore, Applicant submits that the feature (“the plurality of event providers comprising the first and second event provider and the plurality of event consumers comprising the first and second event consumer are represented by an extensible common information model that encapsulates all the components and applications in the network”) as recited in amended claim 25 is absent in the cited

references. As a matter of fact, neither of the references teaches an “extensible common information model that encapsulates all the applications and components in the network.”

[0017] Accordingly, amended claim 25 is respectfully asserted patentable over the cited references. Similarly, since claims 30 and 35 are amended to incorporate at least the same feature, these claims are asserted patentable over the cited references too.

Dependent Claims

[0018] In addition to its own merits, each dependent claim is allowable for the same reasons that its base claim is allowable. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of each dependent claim where its base claim is allowable.

CONCLUSION

[0019] All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the **Examiner is urged to contact me before issuing a subsequent Action.** Please call/email me or my assistant at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 10-30-2007

By: Ningning Xu
Ningning Xu
Reg. No. L0293
(509) 324-9256 x226
ningning@leehayes.com
www.leehayes.com

My Assistant: Carly Bokarica
(509) 324-9256 x264
carly@leehayes.com